

Amendments to the Claims:

1-26. (cancelled)

27. (new) A mounting and adjustment device for an optical observation system comprising at least one optical observation system and a pedestal, said device comprising at least one element integrally associative with said optical observation system and at least one element integrally associative with said pedestal, said at least one element integrally associative with said optical observation system and said at least one element integrally associative with said pedestal being operatively connected in a pivoting manner by at least one pivoting fulcrum and being pivotable around a pivoting axis arranged transversely with respect to one another, said device additionally comprising adjustment devices for the operation of said pivoting.

28. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 27, wherein said axes of pivoting are at right angles to one another and lie on a plane which is parallel to the plane in which lies said at least one element integrally associative with said pedestal.

29. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 28, comprising two adjustment devices arranged so as to form a right angle with the pivoting fulcrum.

30. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 27, wherein said adjustment devices comprise a micrometric screw comprising a stem bearing a head at the end closest to the user and a cap at the distal end, intended to press upon a striking surface of said at least one element integrally associative with said pedestal or of said at least one element integrally associative with said optical observation instrument, said stem, threaded over at least a part of its outer surface, being engaged

by screwing with a female maneuvering screw, said female maneuvering screw preferably comprising a vernier reading device calibrated on the angulations of the celestial coordinates.

31. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 27, wherein said adjustment devices comprise a differential screw comprising a stem fitted with a cap intended to press upon a striking surface of said at least one element integrally associable with said pedestal or of said at least one element integrally associable with said optical observation instrument, said device additionally comprising a tubular female screw, threaded internally and externally, arranged coaxially outwith the stem, and equipped with an operating handle, the outer threading of the tubular female screw being coupled with the internal threading of a hole passing through the wall of said at least one element integrally associable with said pedestal or of said at least one element integrally associable with said optical observation instrument wherein said differential screw is inserted; the outer threading of the tubular female screw and outer threading of the stem having different pitches.

32. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 31, wherein said adjustment devices comprise a vernier reader calibrated on the angulations of the celestial coordinates.

33. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 31, said striking surface of said at least one element integrally associable with said pedestal or with said at least one element integrally associable with said optical observation instrument comprising a seating for the cap of such a shape as to block the rotation of the stem.

34. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 33, wherein

said cap and said seating have complimentary shapes, preferably a polygonal shape.

35. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 27, wherein said element integrally associable with said optical observation instrument is pivoting with respect to said element integrally associable with said pedestal, said pivoting element having, in cross-section, an L-shaped profile and being constituted by a sleeve for the housing of said means of optical observation and by a flange projecting outwards; said element integrally associable with said pedestal being a circular element and being arranged coaxially with respect to said pivoting element, said sleeve being housed within the through hole of the circular element.

36. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 34, wherein said circular element and said pivoting element are assembled together through sprung means of fixing which provide for keeping the system assembled and under tension, between said circular element and said pivoting element is operatively placed a pivoting fulcrum.

37. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 36, wherein said pivoting fulcrum is a sphere.

38. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 27, comprising a first L-shaped element having a horizontal plate-shaped arm and a vertical plate-shaped arm, each arm having a longer side and a shorter side; a second L-shaped element opposite the first L-shaped element, having two arms of length essentially corresponding to the longer sides of the first L-shaped element, with which they are intended to meet up with; and a third L-shaped element opposite the first L-shaped element, having two arms of length essentially corresponding to that of the shorter sides of the first L-shaped element and intended to oppose and to match up with said shorter sides of the first L-shaped element; said device additionally

comprising a first cylindrical pivoting fulcrum located within the complimentary seats formed in the vertical arms of said first and second L-shaped elements, and a second cylindrical pivoting fulcrum placed at right angles with respect to the first complimentary seatings formed in the horizontal arms of said first and third L-shaped elements; said device additionally comprising first adjustment devices operatively associated with the horizontal arms of said first and second L-shaped elements and second adjustment devices operatively associated with the vertical arms of said first and third L-shaped elements.

39. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 38, said device comprising a stem for connection to the pedestal of the optical observation system and a counter balance bar for the connection of said mounting and adjustment device to said optical observation instrument and to a counterweight, said optical observation instrument and said counterweight being positioned at the two ends of said counter balance bar.

40. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 39, wherein said stem is connected to the pedestal of said optical observation system through a ball joint in order to connect said mounting and adjustment device to the pedestal in an articulating manner, means of locking in position being provided in order to maintain the ball joint in a defined position.

41. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 40, comprising friction clutches positioned between said stem and said ball joint and/or between said counter balance bar and said optical observation instrument.

42. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 27, wherein said optical observation instruments are means for taking photographs such as a camera for celestial photography, said device comprising a fixing base to said optical

observation instrument having a mounting piece, to said mounting piece being operatively associated, in a pivoting manner, a yoke element, said yoke element comprising two flat pieces arranged at right angles to one another, a first piece facing onto the mounting piece of the fixing base, a second piece projecting perpendicularly from the latter; said second piece comprising means of fixing to the means for taking photographs.

43. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 42, said device comprising two adjustment devices arranged so as to form a right angle with the pivoting fulcrum.

44. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 27, comprising a yoke base having a fixing piece to a telescope and a mounting piece operatively associated, in a pivoting manner, with a bored plate, the through hole of said bored plate having such shape and dimensions as to house an optical observation instrument such as a finder scope.

45. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 44, the pivoting fulcrum being constituted by a sphere, said device additionally comprising two adjustment devices arranged so as to form a right angle with the pivoting fulcrum.

46. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 27, said pivoting fulcrum comprising means of restraining in order to maintain the fulcrum in place within its seating.

47. (new) The device in accordance with claim 46, wherein said means of restraining comprise a stem which crosses through the walls of said at least one element integrally associative with said optical observation instrument and of said at least one element integrally associative with said pedestal, and the pivoting fulcrum itself, said stem

terminating at its two ends with heads of greater diameter than the stem; said stem having such a length as to protrude externally over both sides of the device; said means of restraining additionally comprising appropriate resilient means arranged between the heads and the surface of the mounting and adjustment device.

48. (new) The mounting and adjustment device in accordance with claim 27, comprising resilient means, such as traction springs, for holding together said at least one element integrally associable with said optical observation instrument and said at least one element integrally associable with said pedestal.

49. (new) An optical observation system comprising at least one mounting and an adjustment device of at least one optical observation instrument as described in claim 27.

50. (new) An optical observation system comprising a first optical observation instrument, a second optical observation instrument, a mounting and adjustment device for said optical observation instruments and a pedestal to which said mounting and adjustment device is connected, characterised in that said mounting and adjustment device comprises a counter balance bar and that said first and second optical observation instruments are arranged at or in close proximity to the opposite ends of said counter balance bar in such a way as to achieve the balancing of the optical observation system.

51. (new) The optical observation system in accordance with claim 50, wherein said first optical observation instrument is the main telescope and said second optical observation instrument is a photoguide telescope.

52. (new) The optical observation system in accordance with claim 50, wherein said mounting and adjustment device comprises at least one optical observation system and a pedestal, at least one element integrally associable with said optical observation system and at least one element integrally associable with said pedestal, said at least one element integrally associable with said optical observation system and said at least one element integrally associable with said pedestal being operatively connected in a pivoting manner by at least one pivoting fulcrum and being pivotable around a pivoting axis arranged transversly with respect to one another, said device additionally comprising adjustment devices for the operation of said pivoting.